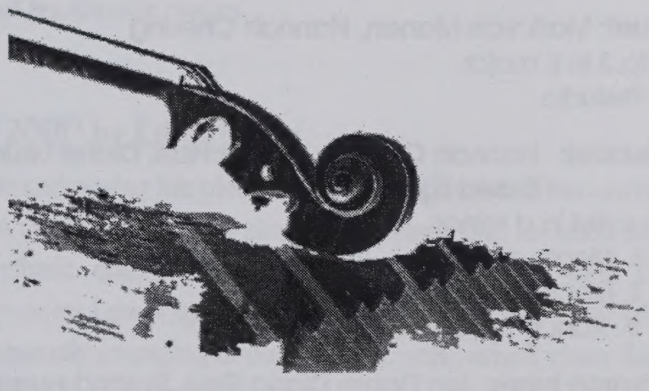
MUSIC IN THE MAKING

Hannah Cheung and Friends

Sunday, June 23, 2002
Convocation Hall, University of Alberta



Program

Piano solo: Hannah Cheung

Preludes for piano — George Gershwin

I. Allegro ben ritmato e deciso
II. Andante con moto e poco rubato
III. Allegro ben ritmato e deciso

Lotus Land — Cyril Scott

Piano Cells — Kristin Dahle

Violin Duet: Cynthia Johnston and Hannah Cheung

Dudelsack (bagpipes) — Béla Bartók

Concerto for Two Violins — J.S. Bach

II. Largo, ma non tanto

Piano accompaniment: Janet Lam

Trio: Alissa Cheung, Matt Cheung, and Hannah Cheung

Alleluia — Jerry Sinclair

It is Well With My Soul — Horatio G. Spafford and Philip P. Bliss

INTERMISSION (15 MIN)

Three Violins: Maria-Antonia Cavaco, Andrëj Kunev, Hannah Cheung

Crambambuli

Abide With Me

Violin Duet: Mark van Manen, Hannah Cheung

Partita No.3 in E major — J.S. Bach

Preludio

String Quartet: Hannah Cheung, Elly McHan, Diane Leung, David Eggert

String Quartet in d minor — Aaron Hryciw

I. Allegro agitato
II. (yet to come!)
III. Rondo scherzando

ECHO drama team: Jen Dong, Diana Gee, Roland Hung, Jocelyn Kan, Janet Lam, Philana Tam, Gina Wong, Greg Wong, Eric Yu

In the Light — music by DC Talk

Violin solo: Hannah Cheung

What a Wonderful World — George D. Weiss and Bob Thiele

Program Notes

Piano Preludes (1927) by George Gershwin (1898-1937)

George Gerwshin performed five preludes for piano for the first time on December 4, 1926 at the Hotel Roosevelt, in a recital he gave with Mme. Marguirite d'Alvarez, contralto. Three of these preludes became the Preludes for Piano and were published in 1927. The Three Preludes are basically jazz-oriented, classical dances and songs for the piano. The second, one of the marvels of solo piano literature, turns a jazzy riff into a slow blues lullaby.

Lotus Land Op. 47 by Cyril Scott (1879-1970)

Cyril Scott was a multi-talented composer who, by the age of two and a half, could not only repeat tunes on the piano, but could also improvise. Scott gained a wide reputation in Great Britain during the early twentieth century. His works include symphonies, choral compositions, chamber music, and a number of solo piano pieces. Lotus Land is filled with rich chords, cascades, arpeggios and glissandos that add to the sonorous atmosphere.

My good friend, Maria Millar, once played a transcription of this piece on the violin. I generally dislike violin transcriptions of piano pieces, but her angelic sound left me spellbound and I was persuaded to change my opinion! It has remained one of my favorite pieces.

Piano Cells (2001) by Kristin Dahle

(*Kristin*) I began composing this piece by starting with several two-measure cells. My aim was to make these cells extremely rhythmic and for each cell to have contrasting rhythmic and/or harmonic feel from the next cell. During the compositional process I drew upon these cells for the formation of the piece. Also, the meter is constantly changing throughout this work, which gives this piece its rhythm and ensures excitement by its unpredictable nature. Enjoy!

(*Hannah*) I met Kristin at Academy String Orchestra where she plays violin. She is very laid back-at least, that is what I thought until I played her music! She will be pursuing her Masters degree in composition at the University of Alberta this coming fall.

Bagpipes by Béla Bartók (1881-1945)

Béla Bartók was a Hungarian composer, known for his work in ethnomusicology. His vast collection of folk songs from the Hungarian regions influenced his compositions. Among them are 44 duos for two violins, each of which is based on a peasant tune, written primarily as educational pieces to familiarize young musicians with modalities and asymmetrical rhythms. This is no. 36 and includes a variation after the theme.

Concerto in D minor for 2 violins, BWV 1043 by J.S Bach (1685-1750)

With this concerto, Bach surpassed the standard of 'Baroque' at the time. While minor keys are often associated with sad and melancholic tunes, the so-called 'melancholic' feeling does not go hand in hand with a minor key with Bach. Instead, it is majestic, serious, and humanistic. The melody of the second movement resembles an aria, as the two violins complement each other while singing harmony with every note.

Alleluia by Jerry Sinclair

This piece was arranged to reflect different moods that I have experienced. No matter what I am feeling, God has always brought me to a place to worship Him and to know that He holds the future and intends it for good.

It is Well With My Soul by Horatio G. Spafford (1828-88) and Philip P. Bliss (1838-76)

Horatio G. Spafford was a successful attorney with four daughters. His family was planning a vacation in Europe, but when it was time to leave, urgent business kept him so they went on ahead without him. While they were crossing of the Atlantic, their ship collided with another vessel and sank in 12 minutes. All four of his daughters perished, while his wife survived. Spafford sailed to join his wife in England and as he passed the place where his daughters had drowned, he was inspired to write this hymn.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll - Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, "It is well with my soul."

Tho Satan should buffet, tho trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate and shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin - O the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin - not in part but the whole, is nailed to His cross and I bear it no more! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll. The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, "Even so" - It is well with my soul.

Crambambuli

Crambambuli is a traditional German folksong praising a famous drink of the same name.

Abide With Me

The text to this hymn was written by an Anglican minister, Henry F. Lyte (1793-1847), who was inspired to write the words when he read of the two disciples who met Jesus while on their way to Emmaus.

Partita No. 3, Preludio by J.S Bach (1685-1750)

J. S. Bach wrote three sonatas and three partitas for solo, unaccompanied violin. The partitas are collections of dance movements. This is an arrangement of the first movement, *Preludio*, from the Partita in E major into a violin duet. I hope that this arrangement will give you a new perspective into the mathematical nature and the energy of Bach's writing.

String Quartet in d minor (1999-2000) by Aaron Hryciw

Aaron is a violinist/bassoonist/composer who completed an engineering degree this year. I met him at Academy Strings this year and have enjoyed his witty comments and sense of humor. He will be pursuing a Masters degree in engineering this fall at the University of Alberta.

The two movements of this unfinished string quartet are written in a traditional, romantic style. The first movement is in classical sonata allegro form, while the third is a rondo with a double trio.

In the Light, music by DC Talk

Several years ago, a Vancouver street ministry team called DRIME created the drama "In the Light" as a means to communicate the Christian faith in a visual and dynamic way. In 1998, five U of A students learned and performed the drama for a local Christian youth concert. Since then, the group has grown into what is now the ECHO drama team and have created dramas of their own. Merging music, mime, and story, the dramas speak of God's love and desire for people to turn back to him. In ECHO's adaptation of "In the Light", we see angels being created and the fall of Lucifer. God then brings to life two humans; one rejects God's love and falls in the control of darkness, the other finds freedom and joy. When the fallen girl turns back to God, He sets her free and enables her to join the others in the light.

What a Wonderful World by George D. Weiss and Bob Thiele

This well-known tune was recorded by Louis Armstrong and featured in the film, "Good Morning Vietnam."

I see trees of green, red roses too. I see them bloom for me and you,- and I think to myself, "What a wonderful world."

I see skies of blue and clouds of white, the bright blessed day, the dark sacred night, and I think to myself, "What a wonderful world."

The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky are also on the faces of people going by. I see friends shakin' hands, sayin', "How do you do!" They're really sayin', "I love you.

-Program notes by Priscilla Chan, Hannah Cheung, Kristin Dahle, Aaron Hryciw-

Performers

Maria-Antonia Cavaco. Besides playing the violin, Maria-Antonia also dances and likes to read books. She has a unique name, which is a combination of her father and mother's names! She is a wonderful violin student to have!

Alissa Cheung. When I was young, I desperately wanted a sister and my mom says that I prayed three years for one. She offered to get me a dog instead. Well, my wish has come true and my sister is the best sister ever! She is completing Grade 11 at Old Scona High School and will in the National Youth Orchestra this summer, which will be touring Japan and Hong Kong. She also volunteers at Lynwood Capital Care where she plays violin for the residents there.

Matt Cheung. My brother is my ultimate hockey-watching buddy. We share the love of the ticker and the same annoyances with Chelios and P. Roy. We also like watching "Malcolm in the Middle" and "Scrubs" and discussing why we, as siblings, could have such complete opposite tastes in food. Next year, he will be in Grade 10 at Old Scona High School and will be traveling with our mom and me to Europe this summer.

Dan Chou. Dan Chou came to Canada from Honduras five years ago. Since then, he has learned to speak English, play ice hockey (and root for the Oilers!), and is currently a technical support staff at Grant MacEwan College. Dan is a caring and supportive friend
and we all enjoy his cooking!

Jen Dong. I love Jen's sense of humor, which is something I will definitely miss. She plays many sports including volleyball and ice hockey, loves her dog and is a physical therapist.

David Eggert. David is an extremely talented cellist who grew up playing in string quartets. He has performed as a soloist with the Edmonton Youth Orchestra and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and will be attending the University of Alberta in the fall. I can't get over how tall he's become and am eager to watch him launch a successful musical career!

Diana Gee. Diana is a dear friend of long who keeps my head on my shoulders. She works as a civil engineer and is a globetrotter whose journeys have taken her to India, Australia, Europe, and the States. Diana is also responsible for the layout of this program. Thanks!

Roland Hung. I have a list of things that I never pictured myself doing and it includes taking physics with Roland. He is a great lab partner, but sucks up a lot!! Roland's true gift is in drama and I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of his play, "Exodus", which was held last year at the Edmonton Chinese Alliance Church.

Cynthia Johnston. I met Cynthia at Academy Strings. On our orchestra tour to Cuba this year, she had the misfortune of sitting in a chair that collapsed during one of our performances. She recovered and just kept playing! She is a kind friend with a contagious laugh and teaches kindergarten and autistic children.

Jocelyn Kan. I will never forget how Jocelyn told me to get the Texan accent when I go to Houston. I love her quirky sense of humor. She is going into third year Business at the University of Alberta.

Andrëj Kunev. Andrëj is a multi-talented person who plays piano, violin, soccer, and does karate as well. He is grade 7. This was his first year of violin lessons with me at Visionary College, St. Albert.

Janet Lam. Janet is an occupational therapist working with autistic children. She has many musical talents, being able to play violin, piano, and to sing. She has been a thoughtful and dear friend to me.

Diane Leung. Diane is a respected violist who is currently studying at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. I met her in Academy Strings and am always astounded at her musicality and her ability to produce such a fine sound from her viola that seems to huge for anyone to handle!

Esther Ma. Esther is full of energy and spunk! She is a caring and generous person and an exceptional leader who makes sure that things get done and done right! She is also an occupational therapist.

Mark van Manen. I met Mark when we were both taking violin lessons from the late Mr. Ranald Shean. Since then, we have performed together in a variety of musical settings. It has been enjoyable and a privilege to play with such a refined, accomplished graduate of the music program at the University of Alberta. I appreciate his kindness and generosity as a friend.

Elly McHan. Elly was my ever-cheery roommate on our trip to Cuba this year and we shared many adventures together. In Havana, our hotel room had just been fumigated. We couldn't stand the smell so we went outside to practise. Our practice was turning out to be rather productive when suddenly, rain came pouring down and forced us to run madly inside to keep our violins from getting wet! Elly has completed her first year in Music at the University of Alberta. She is a supportive friend and always makes me smile!

Philana Tam. Philana's pastimes include taekwando, kick boxing, running, and singing in the church choir. She is going into her last year of education. I admire her optimistic approach to life and her courage to survive China's bathrooms!

Gina Wong. Everytime I see Gina, she always has the biggest grin on her face, and it always makes my day. I admire her selflessness and her passion for the things she values in life. Gina is working towards her CA certification.

Greg Wong. I always think of Greg as the Chinese Prince of Bel-Air. He always makes me laugh and it's fun to share the same birthday as him. Greg is a teacher for children with special needs. He is also an avid hockey fan and will be traveling to Greece this summer.

Eric Yu. Eric is another one of those multi-talented people: he sings, plays guitar/bass/piano, was once my Kung Fu instructor, produced 2 CD's, and has just graduated with a Bachelor's in Science. Being with Eric is always fun and makes a long bus ride seem short!

Musical Inspiration

I want to extend a word of appreciation to several important people in my life who have helped me to grow as a musician over the years. I am grateful for my first teachers, Marie Gale and Nancy Thornhill who had the patience to teach me violin and piano, respectively, when I was just three years old. I am extremely indebted to the large amount of time given to me by my late violin teacher, Ranald Shean, and my piano teacher, Vera Shean. Not only did they help me mature in my sound and technique, they shared their love for music with me and gave me unforgettable experiences to show me how wonderful it is to play with other musicians. I am thankful for Linda Chui who always encourages me to keep writing arrangements, for Tanya Prochazka who taught me that the sky is the limit and how to practice, for my parents who still remind me of how expression is everything in music, and for my siblings who are supportive in all my musical endeavors. I am glad that God created music for us to enjoy, share, and to worship Him.

Thank You's

To all the performers and composers who made this recital possible.

To Angeli Chan who took care of the drinks.

To my stage hands who helped to make the transitions smooth.

To my ushers who helped to hand out programs.

Extra Special Thank you's

To Andrea Ling, my good friend who made put in so many hours to make my skirt for today's recital.

To all those friends who made a special trip from Calgary to attend the recital today.